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WHY ABERDEEN-ANGUS ?



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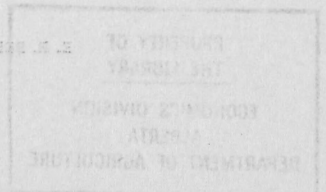
Little Black Bull

*The Angus boy-calf, wobbling by the brook,
spraddles his knobby legs to bend and look
at his quaint black face in quiet evening
water,
and there beside him hears the boy's soft
laughter.*

*He feels the young hand on his trembling
hide
and gulps a star from the cool and gentle
tide.*

*It's hard to tell which is more beautiful,
the bronze boy or the ebony small Bull.*

Frances Frost



FOREWORD

This publication has been undertaken with a view to setting forth, within its limits, the merits of the Aberdeen-Angus breed—a partial answer to the title “WHY ABERDEEN-ANGUS?” Obviously, it is not possible in a pamphlet of this size to cover all aspects of this subject. It is offered with the hope that present day breeders, as well as those who may be thinking of embarking on the business of beef cattle production or expanding their present program, will have before them substantial evidence with respect to what this great breed of Scotch cattle has accomplished in the past and what it may have to offer for the future. It is further hoped that it will instil in the minds of those now engaged in this business of breeding Angus cattle, a feeling of pride, inspiration and confidence.



AN ANGUS HERD DIGGING FOR FOOD IN SUB-ZERO WEATHER

Why Aberdeen - Angus ?

Since its introduction into the United States and Canada some seventy-five to eighty years ago, the Aberdeen Angus breed has rapidly acquired an enviable position in the beef world. Today it has proven its superiority on the range, in the feed lot and on the block as a beef producer. Registrations and sales records indicate a very healthy future for the breed. It is reported that in the United States new Angus herds are being founded at the rate of 200 per month. Memberships in Angus Associations are at an all time high.

There is a shifting in the Angus population from the East to the West. Texas that once stood 20th in Aberdeen Angus registrations now ranks fourth. California is hailed as possibly the Angus center of the West. This is interesting in view of the fact that this is the fastest growing state of the Union and the State is promoting a beef production program in order to augment the large imports from outside its borders.

Further down south, Argentine way, the Aberdeen Angus breed has expanded at a tremendous rate. The Angus Association is enrolling new members at the rate of 70 per month. In 1953 the registration of 21,000 Angus calves was several thousand higher than that of the other beef breeds which previously had been regarded as the dominant breeds in the Argentine. At the 1954 Perth Sale, Argentina purchased 50 bulls and a dozen heifers.

Bring Record Prices

Fabulous prices indicate that Angus enthusiasts are willing to expend large sums in order to get animals of their choice. The Angus breed holds the world record purchase price for all breeds for bulls and heifers, the prices being \$115,000 for a half interest in a bull and \$38,500 for a heifer. Angus prices at the 1954 Perth sale soared. The average for bulls and heifers, as well as the overall average, eclipsed all previous figures. The annual cattle show and sale held at Smithfield, London, England, is the chief cattle event of the year in that country. Aberdeen Angus were again the most numerous entered of the pure breeds, and from a quality standpoint several experts regarded its display as the best staged by any breed at Smithfield within living memory. Closer to home one finds that at the 1953 Chicago International, the Aberdeen Angus breed dominated both breeding and fat cattle entries, and at the 1954 Toronto Royal, Angus steers outsold all those of other breeds.

Why, you may ask, has the Aberdeen Angus acquired this enviable position? Why is it that registrations are soaring and new herds continually being established? This pamphlet has been prepared to indicate in brief, some reasons why wise cattlemen are selecting Aberdeen Angus as their choice of the beef breeds.

Outstanding Show Records

Possibly one of the main reasons for the choice of Aberdeen Angus as a breed is the phenomenal success that it has, and is establishing at the main show and sale events both at home and abroad. Since the inauguration of the Chicago Show in 1900, the Angus breed has racked up 75% of all the inter-breed grand championships in beef cattle competitions. In addition, these high quality animals have won 53% of the grand championships in individual steer competitions, and over 66% of the groups of steers during the 48 expositions held. Similar successes were noted at the 1953 Smithfield show and sale where the breed and its crosses claimed no fewer than 17 of the 20 championships and reserve tickets awarded in inter-breed contests.

Superior Carcass Qualities

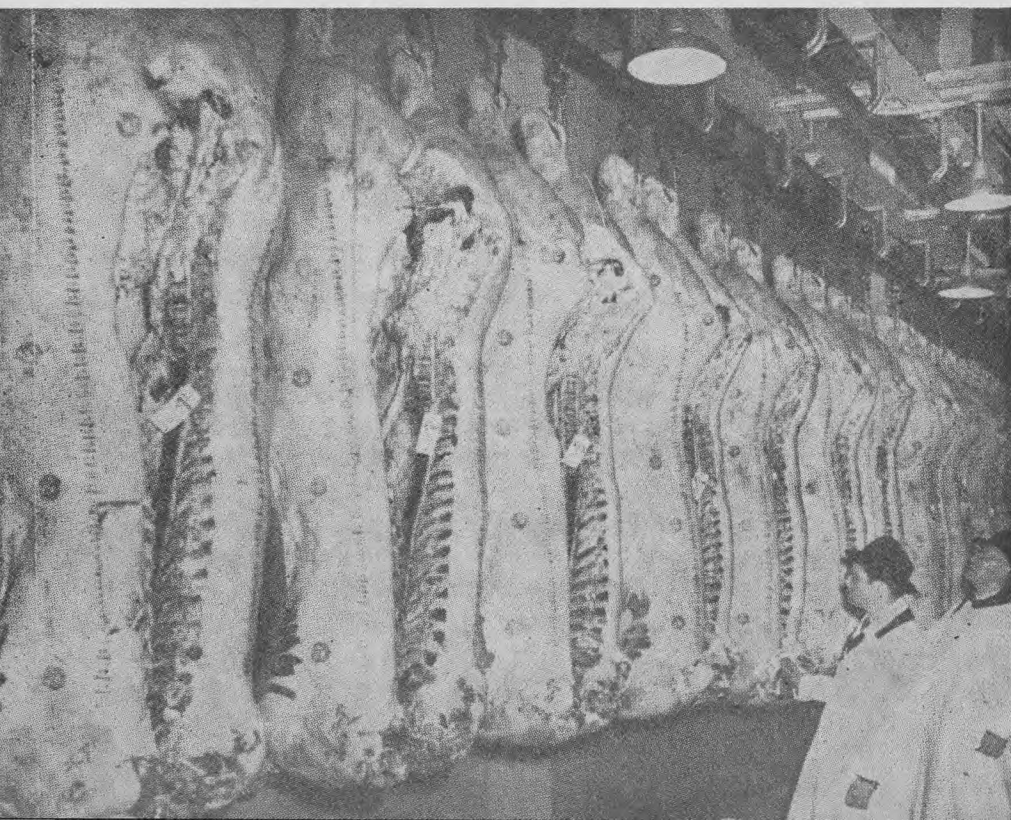
Another reason is the fact that the consumer is king—he demands a well marbled, quality beef and the international carcass contests have proven that the Angus produces America's best beef. The breed produces a maximum of prime beef with a minimum of waste. The fat is evenly distributed and there is a freedom from patchiness and rolls.

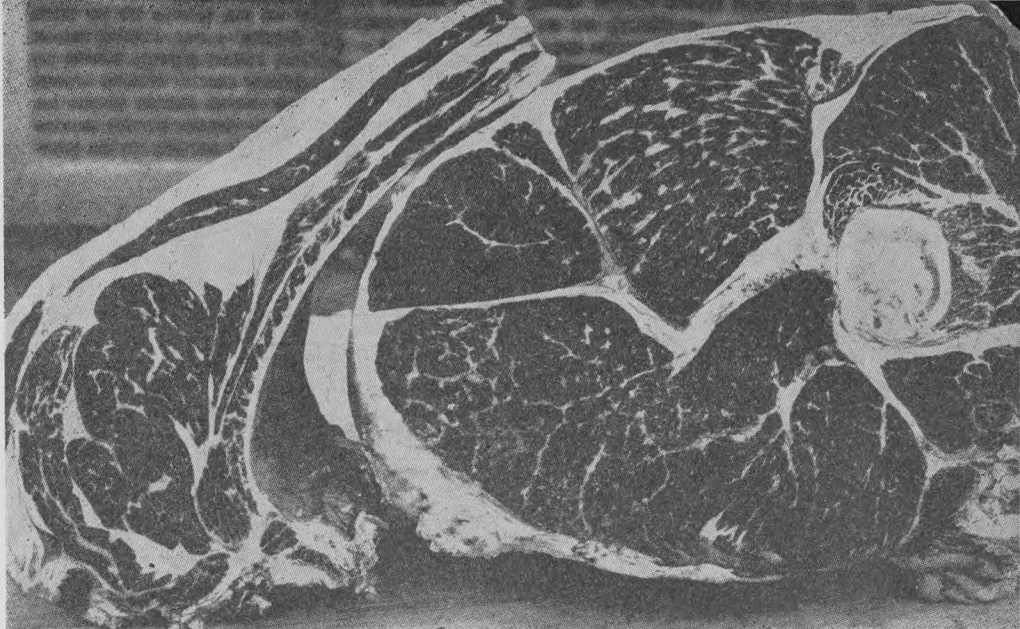
The results of 33 shows, since the junior feeding contest was initiated in Chicago, show that Angus steers won 20 championships as compared to 13 for the other Beef Breeds. Carcass contests have been conducted annually since the establishment of the International Live Stock Show with the exception of 1914-1915 and 1942-46. These carcasses have been judged on the basis of quality, type, finish and market requirements without any knowledge or information as to the breed represented.

No. of prizes
awarded to major
breeds from

1900-1952	Angus	% won	Hereford	% won	Shorthorn	% won
431	367	85.15	37	8.58	27	6.27

JUDGING CARCASSES AT CHICAGO





A PRIME CUT OF ANGUS BEEF

During the same interval of time, the Angus breed won 45 out of the 47 grand championship carcass awards.

The record of the Aberdeen Angus breed in the Carcass Classes at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair at Toronto during the past six years, is given below:

There are three divisions, based on weight as follows—under 475 lbs.; 476 to 599 lbs. and 600 lbs. and up:

1948—Grand Champion and first 3 placings in light weight group,
First and second awards in medium weight group,
First five placings in heavy weight group.

1949—Grand Champion and first 3 placings in medium weight group,
First 5 placings in heavy weight group,
1, 2, 3 and 5 in light weight group.

1950—Grand Champion and first and second placings on all 3 weight groups.

1951—Grand Champion and first place in all 3 classes.

1952—Grand Champion and won 16 awards out of a total of 36.

1953—Grand Champion and stood 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 in medium weight group and 1 and 2 in light weight group.

From these winnings it is apparent that the Angus is far superior in producing the type of carcass that the consumer desires. In addition to possessing a superior quality carcass, the

Angus breed has won the dressing percentage competition 46 times out of 48 contests. These advantages are reflected in the prices which have been paid by packers at both the International Show and the Annual Feeder Cattle Show and Sale. At the 1953 International, 73 carload lots of Aberdeen Angus brought \$1.60 more per hundred than the 47 carload lots of the other two breeds. Results from the Feeder Show and Sale indicate that the average price on all classes for the 363 straight bred loads was \$21.71 per cwt., while Angus returned \$26.48 per cwt. or 21.97% above the general average. Angus cattle led in all categories of the sale when compared to the combined averages of the two other major breeds competing:

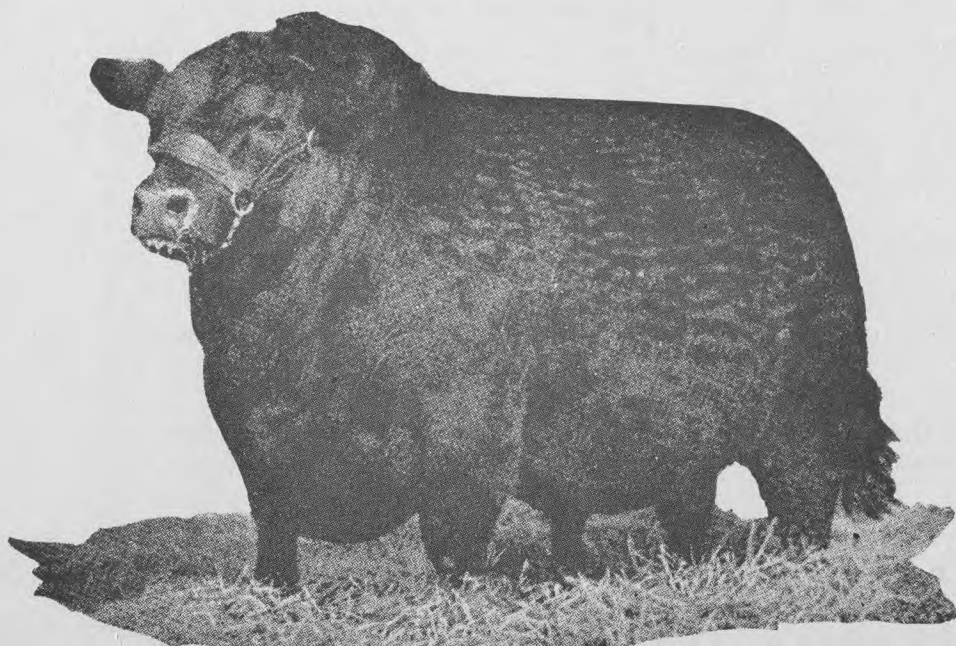
\$6.18 more per cwt. for steer calves

\$4.90 more per cwt. for heifer calves

\$2.47 more per cwt. for yearling steers

\$6.37 more per cwt. for yearling heifers

This is surely proof of the fact that it pays to breed and feed Angus cattle, a fact becoming increasingly evident in the demand by 4-H Club members for Aberdeen Angus calves. In a recent calf club sale in Alberta, Aberdeen Angus won both Champion and Reserve Champion ribbons in stiff competition from other breeds and also returned the highest price per pound of any calf at the 1954 Calf Club Sales. Their fine showing will certainly be an incentive for more and more Juniors to feed and show Aberdeen Angus calves.





ANGUS HERD FORAGING IN 45 BELOW ZERO WEATHER

Advantages of Aberdeen-Angus

In addition to their phenomenal successes in the show and sales ring, the Aberdeen Angus possess many other features of importance to the cattleman.

1. Angus Are Hornless

Angus cattle are naturally hornless, a decided asset in the feed lot and, when mated with horned cows, the calf crop is 95% or more hornless. This prepotency in transmitting the hornless characteristic is an important factor in the use of purebred Angus bulls on cows of other breeds. Breeders using Angus bulls have no expensive dehorning labor or setbacks from the dehorning operation.

2. Hardy Superior Foragers

Aberdeen Angus possess unsurpassed hardiness and vigor. They are able to withstand extreme cold as well as heat and drought. Cattlemen who are in a position to compare breeds, report their Blacks are superior foragers, range further from water, higher in rugged and rocky pastures, and are better able to withstand extremes in climate.

3. Black Color an Advantage

The solid black color of the Blacks seem to make them resistant to Cancer Eye, a range ailment most prevalent where cattle are subjected to bright sunlight. Even Angus crossbreds show a strong resistance to Cancer Eye. Another disease, Pink Eye or Infectious Keratitis, seldom troubles Angus breeders. While Blacks are known to get Pink Eye, it seldom leaves this beef breed with any serious effect. The black pigment assists in another respect. In many range areas of Western Canada and the U.S., reflection from late spring snows, sunburns the udders of cows with white bags causing sore teats and udder trouble, hence upsetting the general routine of the ranch operation. There have been many reports of these troubles both in Alberta and Montana during the spring of 1954, due to the deep snow throughout April. It is said that many owners of cows with light udders resorted to painting the udders with lamp black and oil to offset the effects of the sun's reflection. Producers of Aberdeen Angus in the same areas, reported that they experienced no difficulties in this respect.

4. Bigger Calf Crops—Greater Weaning Weights.

Angus calves and calves sired by Angus bulls, because of their smaller head and bone structure, are more easily calved than those of other breeds. This means less trouble at calving time, particularly with first calf heifers. Angus calves show great vitality and independence at birth. They are up on their feet at once and get to their mother's milk. It is not uncommon for farmers to report 100% calf crops year after year. Angus cows produce plenty of milk for their calves and consequently wean their offspring at heavier weights. Weaning weights of from 400 to 450 lbs. or more, at approximately 7 months of age, are an important feature in the economics of beef production.

5. Excellent for Crossbreeding

Angus bulls are unsurpassed for crossing and improving the qualities of all animals. Heifers of any of the beef breeds can be bred to Angus bulls at an earlier age without fear of calving troubles. This practice is becoming more prevalent in many parts of Canada and the U.S.A. as it affords an extra calf crop since yearling heifers are bred to calve as two year olds. The crossbred calves are hornless, uniform in color, thick and meaty.



A HERD OF CROSSBREDS FROM AN ANGUS SIRE AND TWO-YEAR-OLD HEREFORD HEIFERS

**SUMMARY OF THE CALVING PERFORMANCE OF TWO-YEAR-OLD
HEREFORD HEIFERS BRED TO HEREFORD AND ANGUS BULLS
AT STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA***

	Hereford Bull		Angus Bull	
	Number of cows bred to each bull			
	23		23	
Sex of Calf	Male	Female	Male	Female
Number of calves born	9	11	14	8
Average birth weight (lb.)	64	63	60	55
Number of calves lost at calving	2	1	0	0
Number of cows lost at calving	1	1	0	0
Number of calves weaned	7	10	14	8
Average weaning weight of calves	331	314	338	339

*This work was conducted at the Oklahoma A. & M. Experiment Station, Stillwater, Oklahoma, by Doyle Chambers, Associate Professor of Animal Husbandry, and J. A. Whatley, Jr., Associate Professor of Animal Husbandry.

The preceding table presents some interesting information on the results of the crossing of Angus bulls on Hereford females as compared with Hereford bulls on Hereford females. The data indicate that the number of calves weaned from the Angus-Hereford cross was 22% greater than from the Hereford-Hereford breeding. While the crossbreds were some six pounds lighter in weight at birth, they averaged some 17 pounds heavier at weaning time. The losses of both cows and calves at calving time indicate that less difficulties were encountered with the Angus-Hereford cross—no deaths as compared with 5 for the Hereford-Hereford breeding. This information should serve to further promote the practice of crossbreeding of Angus bulls with females of other breeds.



What the Future Holds

In the preceding pages we have presented some of the accomplishments of the Aberdeen Angus breed, accomplishments that well indicate the breed merits the title "America's Superior Beef Breed". We of the Aberdeen Angus fraternity, actual or potential breeders, inherit a rich legacy of progress from the past, and with a breed such as we have, approach the future with even greater enthusiasm and zest to improve on a job already well done.

IS IT ANY WONDER THAT ANGUS CALVES ARE POPULAR FOR CALF CLUB WORK?



To

Address

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